

Leaving care assistance

Who is eligible for leaving care assistance?

Young persons qualify for leaving care assistance if they:

- Have left the care of the Department for Community Development; and
- Are under 25 years of age; and
- At any time after they reached 15 years of age were:
 - Subject to a protection order (time limited) or protection order (until 18); or
 - Subject to a negotiated placement agreement for a continuous period of at least six months; or
 - Were provided with a placement service for a continuous period of at least six months.

What does leaving care assistance include?

Leaving care assistance includes:

- Entitlement to personal material, which includes the person's birth certificate, passport, school reports and photographs;
- Any social services that the Department for Community Development considers to be appropriate;
- Assistance to obtain accommodation, undertake education and training, obtain employment, obtain legal advice, access health services and counselling services;
- At the discretion of the CEO, a contribution to expenses incurred:
 - In obtaining, furnishing and equipping accommodation;
 - In living near or moving to a place where the person will be employed or undertake education or training.
- At the discretion of the CEO, a grant to meet expenses related to education or training.

What preparations must be in place for a child who is about to leave the Department's care?

Throughout a child's time in care, the Department for Community Development, together with the child and other people who are significant to the child, develop and regularly update a care plan for the child. When a child is about to leave care, this care plan must be further modified to:

- Identify the needs of the child in preparing to leave care and in his or her transition to other living arrangements; and
- Outline the steps or measures designed to assist the child to meet those needs.